

Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN, US, CH

SUBJECT: MEDIA COVERAGE

1. DAN RATHER, FIRST LINE REPORT, CBS MORNING REPORT.
2. HENRY KISSINGER'S TRIP TO MAINLAND CHINA IS, IN PART, A PART OF GERALD FORD'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN. JUST AS RICHARD NIXON'S VISIT TO CHINA IN 1972 WAS PLANNED, TIMED AND CARRIED OUT FOR MAXIMUM BENEFIT TO THE RE-ELECT NIXON DRIVE, SO IT IS WITH MR. FORD'S GRAND CHINA TOUR PLANNED FOR LATER THIS YEAR. THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN DOING THIS FOR A DECADE--PLAYING THE DIPLOMATIC GAME OF PLANNING VISITS TO AND VISITS FROM AMERICAN PRESIDENTS FOR JUST BEFORE ELECTIONS, FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT, OF COURSE, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
3. THE CHINESE HAVE LEARNED FROM MOSCOW ABOUT SUCH THINGS, AND TODAY, BEGINNING IN 1972, STARTED PLAYING THE SAME GAME--TO THEIR BENEFIT WHEN POSSIBLE.

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4. THE CHINESE AND SOVIETS KNOW THAT THE BEST TIME TO

NEGOTIATE THEIR INTERESTS WITH U.S. PRESIDENTS IS JUST BEFORE ELECTIONS IN WHICH THE PRESIDENT IS DIRECTLY INVOLVED FOR ONE THING, THEY KNOW THAT IT IS RARE WHEN A PRESIDENT IS WILLING TO RISK GOING TO A BIG INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

AND COMING HOME TO SAY 'WELL FOLKS, NOTHING WAS ACCOMPLISHED' OR RARER STILL 'FOLKS, WE FAILED TO REACH ANY AGREEMENT.'

5. NO, PEACE IS ALWAYS AN ISSUE IN PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS --HOW TO GET IT, HOW TO HELP IT--AND EVERY PRESIDENT WHO IS IN OFFICE AND IS RUNNING TO REMAIN THERE SEEMS TO WANT TO RUN WITH A NEW "PEACE" AGREEMENT IN HIS HAND FROM THE SOVIETS AND, MOST RECENTLY, FROM THE CHINESE, TOO. ALL THAT BY WAY OF EMPHASIZING THAT KISSINGER ON HIS CURRENT TRIP TO PEKING IS PART OF THE FORD ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

6. THE BEAUTY OF IT, FOR KISSINGER AND FOR THE PRESIDENT, IS, AS WAS THE CASE WITH THE NIXON TRIP IN '72, IMPORTANT FOREIGN POLICY NEGOTIATIONS ALSO ARE PART OF THE VISITS. AND LAST NIGHT, KISSINGER'S FIRST NIGHT IN CHINA ON THE PRESENT TRIP, THERE WAS A GOOD EXAMPLE. THE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER DELIVERED A THINLY-VEILED WARNING ON THE DANGERS OF UNITED STATES POLICY OF DETENTE WITH THE SOVIET UNION. HE PUT IT BLUNTLY IN ONE PARTICULAR PASSAGE, SAYING OF THE SO-CALLED DETENTE "TO BASE ONE'S SELF ON ILLUSIONS IS TO MISTAKE HOPES OR WISHES FOR REALITY, AND TO ACT ACCORDINGLY WILL ONLY ABET THE AMBITIONS OF EXPANSIONISM AND LEAD TO GRAVE CONSEQUENCES." THE EXPANSIONISM HE IS TALKING ABOUT IS SOVIET EXPANSIONISM. THE CHINESE ARE SOUNDING THE MESSAGE LOUD AND CLEAR. THEY DON'T TRUST THE RUSSIANS. THEY ARE SURPRISED WE DO, AND CANNOT FOR THE LIFE OF THEM UNDERSTAND WHY WE DO. THE CHINESE ARE FRUSTRATED BY WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE THE SLOWNESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO FOLLOW UP ON THE OPENING TO PEKING STARTED IN 1972. THEY WORRY ABOUT THAT, AND HAVE BEEN TRYING TO PASS THE WORD THAT CONDITIONS INSIDE CHINA MAY NOT REMAIN CONDUCIVE TO BETTERING RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. IF WE DON'T DO MORE,

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QUICKLY, TO HELP.

7. THE CHINESE TAKE CARE NOT TO BE TOO HARD ON DR. KISSINGER OR FOR THAT MATTER, ON THE U.S. AS A WHOLE. THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP SEEMS TO UNDERSTAND WELL THE UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES OF A SITTING PRESIDENT, RICHARD NIXON, BEING CAUGHT IN WHAT WERE UNETHICAL IF NOT OUTRIGHT CRIMINAL ACTS, AND BEING FORCED OUT OF OFFICE BECAUSE OF

THEM. THE CHINESE MAY NOT AGREE WITH WHAT WAS DONE AND THEY MAY BE PUZZLED ABOUT THE WORKINGS OF THE AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, BUT THEY ARE WISE ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT THINGS IN THIS COUNTRY HAVE BEEN, TO SAY THE LEAST, A BIT UNSETTLED THIS PAST YEAR. BUT THEY ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT

KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT FORD HAVE BEEN WORKING HARDER TO PLEASE THE SOVIETS, MUCH ;ARDER, THAN THEY HAVE TO PLEASE THE CHINESE. THEY ARE TIRED OF THAT AND ARE SAYING SO, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME WARNING US THAT WHILE THE SOVIET UNION MAY POSE A THREAT TO CHINA, IT ALSO--WHATEVER WE MAY CHOOSE TO BELIEVE AS A RESULT OF SOMETHING CALLED DETENTE--STILL POSES A REAL AND PRESENT DANGER TO AMERICA AS WELL.

8. THE CHINESE WANT TO HELP THEMSELVES BY GETTING US TO BE AT LEAST A LITTLE LESS BELIEVING OF THE RUSSIANS. INGERSOLL

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